

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 /063 W

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O 201408Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7966

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 2209

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY. IN AIRPORT STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON HIS ARRIVAL IN ATHENS FROM NEW YORK ON MARCH 19, CLERIDES INDICATED THAT LATEST UNSC RESOLUTION ON CYPRUS CONTAINS POSITIVE ELEMENTS. CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES, WHO ARRIVED SEPARATELY, MADE SIMILAR REMARKS TO THE PRESS AND INDICATED HE EXPECTED FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AS RESULT OF EFFORTS BY WALDHEIM. FOLLOWING NEARLY TWO HOUR MEETING OF CYPRIOT OFFICIALS WITH PM CARAMANLIS AND OTHER GREEK OFFICIALS, CLERIDES COMMENTED TO REPORTERS THAT A FULL IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN GREEK AND CYPRIOT GOVERNMENTS WAS REACHED AFTER REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. GLAFCOS CLERIDES STATED TO NEWSMEN UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT ATHENS AIRPORT MARCH 19 THAT THERE WERE "SUFFICIENTLY POSITIVE ELEMENTS" IN MOST RECENT UNSC RESOLUTION ON CYPRUS WHICH WAS ADOPTED DESPITE TURKISH EFFORTS TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS CYPRUS PROBLEM.

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THESE POSITIVE ELEMENTS ARE: (A) RECOGNITION OF THE

CYPRUS GOVERNMENT AS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE, (B) CONDEMNATION OF THE UNILATERAL TURKISH ACTION IN PROCLAIMING A SEPARATE TURKISH CYPRIOT "STATELET", AND (C) ADOPTION OF A NEW PROCEDURE FOR SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL. CLERIDES ADDED THAT AFTER THE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED HE HAD REPEATED CONTACTS AND TALKS REGARDING THE DATE AND VENUE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER THE MATTER WAS STILL UNDECIDED BECAUSE THE TURKISH SIDE HAS NOT YET GIVEN ITS REPLY.

3. ANSWERING REPORTERS' QUESTIONS, CLERIDES STATED THAT HE HAD FOUND STRONG INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT BY ALL COUNTRIES -- THE NON-ALIGNED, OF THE EAST AND OF THE WEST-- FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS, AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. CLERIDES CONTINUED THAT ALL COUNTRIES CONDEMN ALSO ANY UNILATERAL ACTION AND ESPECIALLY THE PROCLAMATION OF A SEPARATE TURKISH CYPRIOT STATELET. TO QUERY ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ASSISTANCE ON CYPRUS PROBLEM, CLERIDES REMARKED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE IS BEING OFFERED BY THE SECRETARY SINCE HE HAD NOT MET WITH KISSINGER AFTER THE LATTER'S RECENT TALKS IN ANKARA.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES ALSO SPOKE TO REPORTERS UPON ARRIVING ATHENS AND MADE THE SAME REMARKS AS CLERIDES REGARDING THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF LATEST UNSC RESOLUTION. HE ALSO NOTED, IN CONNECTION WITH STATEMENT BY SENATOR KENNEDY ON CYPRUS (SEPTEL), THAT IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT THE AMERICAN CONGRESS IN GENERAL FAVORS THE GREEK VIEWPOINT ON CYPRUS. REPLYING TO QUESTION ON NEXT STEPS, CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS DEPENDING ON THE INITIATIVES THAT ARE BEING TAKEN BY UNSYG WALDHEIM.

5. THE SPEAKER OF CYPRUS PARLIAMENT MET WITH REPORTERS AGAIN FOLLOWING HIS LENGTHY MEETING WITH PM CARAMANLIS, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY CHRISTOPHIDES, CYPRIOT DEPUTY SPEAKER PAPADOPOULOS AND CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR KRANIDIOTIS.

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FM BITSIOS, DEPUTY FM STAVROPOULOS AND DIRECTOR GENERAL TZOUNIS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING. CLERIDES TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE HAD REVIEWED CYPRUS SITUATION WITH THE GOG IN LIGHT OF THE MOST RECENT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, AND FULL IDENTITY OF VIEWS HAD BEEN REACHED BY THE TWO SIDES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS02209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750097-0892
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750334/aaaabeck.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, (CLERIDES, GLAFCOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006